

GENE ENCODING MNR2 AND USES THEREOF

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 This invention provides isolated nucleic acids encoding a  
motor neuron restricted MNR2 protein, and a homeobox HB9  
protein. Also provided are purified MNR2 and HB9 proteins,  
antibodies recognizing these proteins, transgenic animals  
expressing these proteins, and functionally equivalent  
10 analogs of these proteins. Finally, methods are disclosed  
for inducing differentiation of somatic motor neurons, and  
for treating diseases related to the lack of normally  
functioning motor neurons, neurodegenerative diseases, acute  
nervous system injury, and neuromuscular disease.

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